



Anthropological Survey of India

# NEW LETTER

January-December, 2017







On Inaugural Function of the 73rd Foundation Day (on dias from Right to Left : Prof. Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya, Dr. Kumkum Srivastava, Prof. D.K. Bhattacharya, Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, Dr. Debabrata Mondol, Dr. Kakali Chakrabarty, Dr. M. Sasikumar)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,



The relationship of development with sustainability is an important area of debate and research. The conclusions pertaining to this fall on a continuum, one end of which submits that modern development is perilous to communities that have been sustaining for millennia. The other end speaks of the possibility of having sustainable development, where development builds up the future of the community, ameliorates its quality of life, and pervades, so to say, an 'aura of happiness'.

What is the reality at the local level? Which discourses are crystallizing? Are there contestations between them? What is more important - the goals of development or the people? To provide an answer to these questions, and several others concerned with the relationship between development and sustainability, we have initiated an intensive field study of sixteen social locations. Their comparative study will illuminate the dynamics of development. Anthropology speaks of the differential impacts of development, which vary according to the social categories of gender, age and stratum. Furthermore, the physically and mentally challenged people experience development differently in comparison to those who are not.

Among the academic activities of the year was a national seminar on cultural pluralism, which substantiated the idea that diversity has survival fitness. With remorse, the impact of 'uneven', 'unplanned', and 'mindless' development on biodiversity was noted in the seminar. The trend towards 'mono-ism' is dangerous, for it is irreversible and antithetical to the enduring existence of the planet. Today's aphorism is: 'I survive because all survive, therefore the survival of all should be guaranteed'.

The Anthropological Survey of India was founded as an independent academic and research organization on 1 December 1945. On the Foundation Day this year, we listened to Professor D.K. Bhattacharya of the University of Delhi, outlining the merits of an integrated approach to the study of human beings and their relationship with the wider world, both physical and biological. It devastated us when in the last week of December, we heard of his sad demise, twenty-three days after he had delivered his Foundation Day Speech. After Professor Bhattacharya had read out his speech, he handed over the handwritten manuscript to me, keeping with him none of its copies and also not asking for its photocopy, as anyone would have normally done, thereby symbolizing his break with what he had so far done, so that he could inaugurate a set of new ideas!

**Vinay Kumar Srivastava**

Director



# RESEARCH UPDATE

## Development and Sustainability

Although the steam engines have now found place in the twentieth century's fables and novels, cloudy smokes had later scripted several ballads on the advancements of human societies. Metaphors of a progressive society have been changing ever with the perspective since eighteenth century's industrial revolution. And in due course of time, paradigms of understanding a civilization from a binary horizontal plane of either the 'old world' or the 'new world' have shifted in stratifying human civilization into notions of 'developed', 'underdeveloped' and 'undeveloped' nations. Very soon the momentum of surplus-based economy has turned around as the most important apparatus in understanding a progressive nation and its society across the world. Henceforth continuous processes of economic reformation have raised various analogical debates in inquiring objectivity and subjectivity of various development policies/strategies on the backdrop of sustenance of life. Indian scenario is not exceptional.

In view of the above, the Anthropological Survey of India has taken over a national project entitled "Development and Sustainability" during 2017-2018, with objectives to delineate three perceptible narratives on development, those may

respectively be termed the narratives of the state, community, and the civil society. The contentions of each of these are juxtaposed in an anthropological enquiry. Initially we have selected 16 locations from various parts of the country for the present study. Each of the locations has its own geographical uniqueness and phenomenal characteristics of experiencing magnitude as well as the outcome of the development processes/initiatives. Impressions of reconnoiter study amongst a few of those locations are presented below:

## Tourism in Goa

Tourism is the largest non-machinery based industry in the state of Goa for years. It generates maximum states' revenue steadily, directly and passively from tourism activities. In such backdrop, the study of tourism and development processes in Goa is an important domain of research under this project. The study was conducted to have a comprehensive understanding on the emergence of Goa as an international tourism hotspot from a legacy of a traditional Portuguese colonial ruling of more than 451 years and the role of tourism in sustaining the livelihood of a large population of the state. The fieldwork was carried out in two phases in the coastal belt of North Goa, especially the



*Candolim Beach an ideal destination for a relaxing weekend*



Calangute-Candolim belt. A fifteen days reconnoitre in September 2017 was followed by a month long fieldwork in the peak tourism season, i.e. November and December 2017. The study revealed that though the tourism business initially was a seasonal activity, now the business continues throughout the year, except the shacks and water sports business during monsoon.

It was observed that though most of the investment in tourism is done by the local inhabitants, who have the proprietorship but the business is also carried on by the migrant population coming from the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern part of the Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Orissa. A large number of migrants are from Karnataka and have engaged themselves in the beach-related activities, like shack worker, beach masseurs, petty sellers and water sports.

Study showed that a continuous conflict is simmering among the stakeholders surrounding the issues on tourism activities. People have expressed concern that the aggressive tourism development has destroyed the environment and ecology, the mangroves, sand dunes, destroyed the paddy fields which in future will be a concern for the future generation. The Cyclone Ockhali which hit the Coastal belts of Goa was an eye opener. Many shacks on the beach were destroyed. The businesses in many tourist spots were badly hit due to the upsurge of high tide.

### Potters in a Town Setting of Barwani

The fieldwork was carried out among the Prajapati, an artisan community of a small town called Barwani, in district Barwani, Madhya Pradesh. The Prajapati is also known as Gole. They are widely known for their traditional occupation of pottery making and they are popularly known as Kumhar in that area. This study was an attempt in understanding the intricacy of development and sustainability of age old practices in the context



*At artisan's workshop*

of urban influence. It has been observed despite having sufficient intangible cultural resources, pottery as primary occupation was confined among a few households. The reason is that the raw material for pottery was not easily available in surrounding, rather every essential item had to be purchased. This could be directly related to urbanization and various infrastructure development initiatives. Such a situation has threatened the continuation of pottery as a primary occupation and has led them to adopt different occupations.

### Roghia Village with Apple Orchard

A team of anthropologists from the North-West Regional Centre of the Survey conducted fieldwork in village Roghi of Kinnaur district in Himachal Pradesh. It was observed that the apple orchard brought about marked changes in the economic as well social lives of the villagers. The people are happy with the



*Kinnauri lady engaged in sheering wool at Roghi*

existing development measures as they have come out of several earlier difficulties in different spheres of the life. According to them, access to school and hospital and improvement in transportation facilities have made their life easier compared to earlier situations. It has been found that despite its remoteness, the villagers are pretty aware of the government schemes in order to commercialize the agro-based industry as a primary source of sustainable livelihood measures.

### Rubber Plantation Villages of Tripura

Rubber production in Tripura is primarily governed by the Rubber Board, a statutory body constituted by the Government of India under the Rubber Act 1947, with a vision to create a new avenue for income generation as well as boosting-up revenue generation for the industrially undeveloped state. In 1963, the rubber plantation programme was introduced in this state on a trial basis as a soil conservation method by the forest department. Owing to the vision, the Rubber Board of Tripura started its journey in mid-1978, and had achieved impressive





*Crop field of a village near to Rubber plantation*

progress through strategic interventions for the expansion of plantation area, production and productivity, thus making Tripura the second large rubber producing state in India after Kerala. Later in 1983, TFDPC (Tripura Forest Development and Plantation Corporation) had also started some group plantation projects in West and South districts of Tripura. In 1988, TRPC initiated plantation with a vision of rehabilitating the tribal people on the basis of implementing the rubber plantation in Tripura.

Against this backdrop, a team of scholars carried out a study in some villages of Sepahijala district of Tripura and observed enthusiastic community participation in rubber plantation based economy. It was reported that prior to the introduction of rubber plantation, insurgency and ethnic conflicts were very common that had been stabilized with the scope of income generation in those remote areas through rubber plantation programme. It was also reported by various Government agencies in initial days that plantation programme was challenged by strong resistance from the villagers. With a gradual progress of time, plantation has proved to be a successful programme in the tribal areas of Tripura. Earlier the Tripuri, Jamatia and Halam earned sustenance from the Jhum fields of hilly terrain, who have now engaged in horticulture, and primarily in rubber plantation.

### **Sustainability in the Majuli Island**

Majuli, believed to be the largest inhabited river island in the world, presently the only river island district in the country, is situated in the mid-stream of the river Brahmaputra in Assam. The present study was carried out in one village of Majuli, named Kamalabari Sattr, comprising seven hamlets, that lies on the northern bank of Brahmaputra. The village has a population of Mishing only, living in pile dwellings that are raised on both the sides of Alipath (embankment) in a linear alignment. Casual wage labour is the main occupation of the villagers, since they do not own land, neither for the homestead nor for cultivation. Male members do earn livelihood mostly from construction work, carpentry, office establishment as casual laborers, while the females explore possibilities of earning wages from agricultural fields. Besides this, weaving is the most popular activity, carried out by women of almost every household in a traditional manner.

Traditionally the people of this island have depended on the age-old practice of authority structure where the power vests in the Gaon Bura (headman), who holds power and privilege hereditarily. The Mishings of this Island continue practicing their own religious customs. However, the traditional religion of the Mishings of the Majuli came under the influence of the Neo-





*Struggle for existence- life in Majuli in flood*

Vaishnavism of Srimanta Sankaradeva and his disciples in the 16th century and onwards, thus led them to form the institution of *sattra* (monastery) at the places of the island with establishment of *nama ghar* (prayer halls) at the micro levels. The institution of *sattra* plays an important role in guiding socio-cultural practices in Majuli. The people who have been living here for centuries together, even embracing all odds because of several displacements overtime, are sustaining life on a strong foundation of ethnic solidarity. Emergence of Neo-Vaishnavism has added new dimensions in continuing religious and cultural legacy in the island situation of the Majuli.

### **Bhatin-a Tribal Village of Mine Core**

Focusing on the objectives of the said project, a study was carried out at Bhatin, a tribal dominated village of the Potka Block of the East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. East Singhbhum is one of the mineral rich as well as industrially exposed districts of the country. Moreover, huge uranium deposit has provided this district with one of the prominent landmarks of country while formulating national non-conventional energy policies which otherwise take place on the desk. Bhatin is located at Jadugoda, adjacent to uranium mines of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL). This village is multi-ethnic and the villagers are distributed in the main village and its eight *tolas* (hamlets) such as Jhahira Ghutu, Baro Ghutu, Baro Basti, Ulidih, Sasho Ghutu, Saro Ghutu, Panjhar Koncha, Fadna Dungri and Chati Kocha. The total population of the village is 2000 persons, comprising 1017 males and 983 females (2011 Census).

In Bhatin, agriculture is the primary source of earning livelihood. Wage labour in the ancillary units of the uranium mines provides subsistence to some extent. Interestingly only 4.47% of the studied people are directly engaged in UCIL. Notwithstanding one primary school and one middle school at the village, literacy rate of this village was found only 63.67% as compared to 66.41% of Jharkhand state (2011 Census). Presence of the UCIL headquarters and employee's colony at Jadugoda, if it could not



*Sukha Shakhua-Pale Saltrees in Sacrade Grove at Bhatin*

improve the literacy rate, it has at least made them more conscious about the environmental impact of mine activities in day-to-day life.

### **DNA Polymorphism in Contemporary Indian Populations**

YSNPs markers of 71 tribal communities and the mt-DNA haplotypes of 48 communities have also been identified for the first time in India through this study, which has its own significance in the Genomics Study of People of India. Final report on the 'Genomic Diversity of the People of India' has been submitted and the editing of the report is in progress. In addition, sequencing of a mt-DNA of few more tribal communities has been executed in the DNA-laboratory.

### **Community Genetics and Health (Human Genetics Extension Programme)**

During this year, altogether seven genetic screening-cum-awareness camps were organized among different tribal dominated areas where abnormal haemoglobin disorders like sickle-cell anemia and thalassaemia are prevalent.

### **Physical Growth and Development of the Children of North-East India**

A team of research personnel had carried out the first phase of fieldwork among the children of two villages, namely Barsigittim and Dobasipara of the West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya.



*Anthropometric measurements among students of West Garo Hills District*



## EVENTS

### Capacity building

#### Workshop-cum-Training Programme on Wooden Mask Making among the Mech of the Alipurduar District, West Bengal

The Eastern Regional Centre of Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, organized a workshop-cum-training programme among the Mech community of the Madhya Nararhali, a village under the Kumar Gram block of Alipurduar district of West Bengal on their traditional craft of 'Wooden Mask Making' from 17th to 31st January, 2017.

The Mech is one of the Scheduled Tribes, belonging to Bodo-Kachari ethnic group. The Mech trace their migration into India through Patkoi Hills between India and Myanmar and they gradually distributed to Assam and Northern part of West Bengal. Etymologically, their community name is derived from the river Mechi of Terai region. However, they are now-a-days advocating ethnic identity as Bodo rather than as Mech. Despite re-establishing ethnic identity, their expertise in making wooden masks has enriched the mask tradition of West Bengal.



*Perseverant artisan- making of wooden mask*

Mask making school among the Mech is the outcome of an oral tradition based on the folk-drama-Gumrimati's Pala, where each character of the pala requires adorning themselves in specific masks. All those masks are made of Gamher wood (*Gmelina arborea* sp.). Mask making is solely a male domain. Unfortunately, age-old mask making tradition of Mech is close to extinction for various reasons. A workshop-cum-training programme was organized among them with an aim to revamp that craft tradition

as well as oral tradition among the youth, even as a popular art object to make it more economically viable.

#### Workshop-cum-Training Programme on Traditional Weaving among the Mech of Alipurduar District, West Bengal

A Workshop-cum-Training Programme on traditional weaving among the Mech community of Purba Nararhali village of Alipurduar district was organized by the Eastern Regional Centre of Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata from 21st to 31st January, 2017. Altogether fifteen female members participated in this training programme. Training was offered by two experts from their own community.



*Aronai (scarf)- an aesthetic signature of Mech weaving tradition*

Like many other ethnic groups of North-East India, weaving carries immense cultural significance among Mech. Yesteryears, skilful weaving was recognized as a compulsory artwork in bride selection among them. Mech ladies also have expertise in sericulture. Silk worm, particularly *endi* or *eri* and the feed plants that is wild castor are grown as hedge plants. Collection of yarn from cocoons and weaving colourful silk clothes with marvellous motifs through bamboo and wooden structured loom (*kanti*) exemplifies unique aesthetic sense. Under the shadow of surplus economy, once need based weaving tradition is now in peril. Years old craftsmanship is now pushed to the corner by readymade powerloom wears. Organizing that workshop-cum-training programme was a humble attempt in rejuvenating weaving tradition among the Mech.

In that community participation programme, women were trained in selection and collection of raw materials, treatment of threads, arraying and weaving. Ethnic dresses like *dokhna* (female wear), *aronai* (scarf), *khot gosla* (jacket) and *gamcha* were woven with great enthusiasm.



## Workshop-cum-Exhibition on Tribal Healers and Tribal Medicine

In order to document and disseminate tribal knowledge of healing system, the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore, organized a National Workshop-cum-Exhibition on "Tribal Healers and Tribal Medicine" in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, from 4th to 8th February 2017 at Mysuru. The said programme was inaugurated by Prof. Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri, Director, Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, on 4th February, 2017 and as the Chief Guest of the inaugural function, Prof. P. K. Mishra, graced the occasion. Tribal healers of Valmiki and Yanadi (Andhra Pradesh), Munda (Jharkhand), Kota and Kurumba (Tamil Nadu), Bhotia (Uttarakhand), Gond, Baiga and Pradhan (Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh), Kunbi (Karnataka), Kurichan, Mullu Kuruman, Paniya (Kerala) participated in the workshop.



*Anthropologists among the Traditional Medicinemen*

## Workshop-cum-Training Programme on Traditional Dance and Music of the Oraon

The Ranchi Field Station of the Anthropological Survey of India organized a Workshop-cum-Training programme on "Traditional Dance and Music of Oraon Tribe" at Bajpur village under Ratu Block of Ranchi, Jharkhand, from 13th to 17th June, 2017. The Oraon of Jharkhand are a prominent tribal group which has a rich music tradition in forms of dance and music. However, in recent times those are forgotten heritage, due to lack of encouragement as well as impact of widely popular music of greater tradition. The young generation is reluctant in continuing. On such occasion we must refer to the case of Andaman & Nicobar Island, where we find many of their community members sincerely practicing traditional dance and music through many troops of youth, even in very remote locations.

The purpose of the workshop was to revive ethno-music tradition of the Oraon, in view of the changing scenario of the tribal villages in general. Altogether twenty individuals (six males and fourteen females) were trained for five consecutive days under the guidance of three gurus of their own community. The actual forms of Karma dance, Sohrai dance, Domkach, Jhumar dance and Jadur dance were demonstrated among the participants with elaboration of myth and meaning of postures, rhythms, musical instruments and lyrics with their cultural relevance.



*Trainer, trainees and rhythmic tribal music*

Five days long workshop not only could help in reviving intangible heritage of Oraon ethno-music, but also it helped in rebuilding cultural ethos between trainer and trainee through guru-shishya parampara. In addition, the training programme brought back the true spirit of Akhara (traditional dancing ground) and Dhunkuriya (youth dormitory) again in the Bajpur village. Workshop was concluded with a performance of the trainee, thus receiving applauded acceptance of our endeavour.

## Health Awareness Programmes

- In order to understand nutritional status, morbidity states and prevalence of various types of abnormal haemoglobins among human societies, we organized a series of "Health Awareness-cum-Screening" camps in 2017, among various tribal communities of different locations in the country.
- In collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a two-days long camp was organized among the Nicobarese of Champion village of the Nancowry Island of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 31st January to 2nd February, 2017.
- A team of research personnel organized an exhibition on "Community Genetics & Health" from 23rd January to 30th



January, 2017 in the 10th Sundarban Lokopriya Utsav at Sonakhali village of 24 Parganas (South) of West Bengal.

- The Survey organized a "Thalassaemia Awareness and Screening Camp" on 1st March, 2017 at the Barisha Sashibhushan Janakalyan Boy's High School in collaboration with the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Old City.
- Another "Health Awareness-cum-Screening Camp" was organized among the tribal villagers of Shatosha, of Bastar district, Chhattisgarh, from 17th to 19th August, 2017.
- "Health Awareness camp for screening genetic disorder among the Bodh Scheduled Tribe Community of Himachal Pradesh" was organized from 10th to 15th October 2017 in Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu of the Himachal Pradesh.

## DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

### AUDIO-VISUAL MAPPING OF CULTURE OF INDIA

#### Ajrakh of Khavda

Ajrakh is derived from Arabic word "azrak", which means "blue". Precisely Ajrakh refers to 'block printing' on cloths, using natural dyes. It is one of the ancient textile traditions in parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan and in Sindh of Pakistan. Antiquity of this tradition evidently refers to one of the prestigious as well as highly demanded items of Indus valley, exported to Egypt and Babylon through maritime trade in that period. The people of Sindh have a deep reverence for Ajrakh. Ajrakh occupies an important place in all significant events of the life cycle rituals. Moreover, culturally it is more than a piece of cloth. It symbolizes honour and greeting. In Sindh culture, guests are welcomed with Ajrakh, on occasions of cultural events and gatherings. In Gujarat, Khavda of Bhuj tehsil (Katchchh district) is one of a few prominent centres of Ajrakh. The Khatri community has been engaged in this craft for centuries and the technique has been transformed for several generations.

Ajrakh is a 2.5-3 meters long rectangular piece of manual wooden block printed cotton cloth put together from two strips of narrow cotton cloth. It can be two types: *ek-puri* (single-side printing) and *bi-puri* (printed on both side) of the fabric for multi-purpose use like turban, shawl, bed-sheet, hammock for babies and the cover of bullock cart. Traditional Ajrakh involves various stages of dyeing and resist printing using natural dyes. The resist and some colours are printed on the cloth using carved wooden blocks. These blocks are finely engraved with intricate symmetric, geometrical patterns so that the same block can be used for both sides of the cloth. Those geometrical shapes are synchronization of concentric circles with lines. Popular motifs of Ajrakh are *kakkar*, *ghaleechho*, *chowkadibadam*, *butta*, *minkudi*, *riyal*, *kharek*, *sitara*, etc.



*Making of Ajrakh block printing*

Processing of Ajrakh is laborious and time-consuming, involving a series of several stages of printing and dyeing methods, like *saaj*, *kasano*, *khariyanu*, *kat*, *gach*, *rang* and *vichharnu*, etc., for finishing of the work. Traditional craft of Ajrakh uses only natural colours. Usual colours are red, yellow, blue and black. However, green and some other secondary colours are also in use now-a-days. They are generally made by mixing of basic colours. Colours are extracted from various sources. Water soluble paste of *gondh* (gum), *chuna* (lime), *mitti* (mud) applies for outline printing (*kiryana*) of block's design. A paste of *gurrh* (jaggery), *bajri ki atta* and iron scraps solution (iron scraps soaked in water) is major source of black outline (*kut*) printing. Where red colour block printing (*karhh*) is required, colour is supported by a paste of alum, *gondh* (gum), *mitti* (mud) and grinded tamarind seeds powder. Solution of indigofera plant powder, soda, *gurrh* (jaggery), *chuna* is the only source of durable indigo dyeing. For attaining yellow colour, paste of pomegranate peel, turmeric powder, *taiyasu* flower petals is mainly used. For the white portions of the design, a resist paste is prepared with gum and lime. A mixture of *mazist*, *alizer* and *masak* is generally used for the reddish maroon colour during printing.



## Dol Yatra of Harirajpur

Dola Yatra is a very important festival in Puri District, which is also called Dola Melana. Harirajpur Melan is famous for its colourful cracker works. Harirajpur is a small village. It is the Block/Tehasil of Delanga, under Puri district, Orissa. Its nearest town is Jatani (Khurda Road) which is 2 km. away from Harirajpur. Harirajpur is devoted to Lord Somanath (Shiva). In the month of March-April after the 5th day of Dola Yatra, associate deities gather in the *melan ground* for a special worship. This is known as *Panchudola melan*. The Holi celebrations at Harirajpur have been taking place since the 17th Century.



Devotees of Panchu Dola Melana

The mythological significance of Holi as Dola Utsav is outlined in a number of Puranas and ancient Sanskrit texts. The festival is celebrated with considerable fanfare in many villages. Harirajpur deserves a special attention for various reasons. The Panchudola Melana on the Jatni-Pipli road is unique. Customarily, before the commencement of the annual fair, the presiding deity of the village, Paschimambhu Somnath Dev, invites deities of the neighbouring villages to Harirajpur. Panchudola means five dolas/five *veemans*. The main five *dolas* are (i) Paschimeswar from Harirajpur village; (ii) Kedareshwar from village Uttarabasta; (iii) Nilakanthaswar from the village Naibhasar, (iv) Balukeswar from the village Kantia, and (v) Gopiswar from Kusumati village.

There are a number of Shiva temples present in the nearby villages where Lord Shiva is worshipped in different names. During dola purnima, the rituals are followed and the symbolic deities of the lords are carried by locals on their shoulders and finally to the ground (*melanapadia*). They are placed on the

demarked alters. This is called *melana*, which means the get together of the Lords. People put colours on the deities to offer prayers and also play Holi with them. The *melanas* are observed in different villages out of which this (Harirajpur melana) is the biggest. 108 *veemans* used to come to the Harirajpur ground from 108 temples. This year only 77 *veemans* came to this *melana*, several villages have discontinued this practice. The *Veemana* is decorated with various kinds of traditional religious appliqué craftwork of Pipili, such as *Veemana/Dola Mandani* (Covering for celestial vehicle), *Chhati* (ritual umbrella), *Trasa* (banner), *Alata* (hand-fan for religious use) and the *Chandua* (canopy). The Paschimambhu Somnath Dev procession is led by drummers, pipers and *sankirtana mandalis* - a group of devotees who play music. The processions from neighbouring villages halt in front of each household at Harirajpur and the villagers offer *bhoga* to the deities. This ritual is called *chachery*. The idols brought from the other villages are greeted with offerings at the entrance of the Harirajpur Melana ground and the celebrations culminate in a unique ritual called *Hari-har bhet*.

On the 1st day of the festival, all the dolas are placed in the *Panchudolapadia*. These are carried by the milkman community and are well decorated with appliqué work. Fifty percent of dolas are with Lord Shiva and Parvati and the other fifty per cent are with Radha and Krishna. On the 2nd and 3rd days, people offer Abir to the deity which comes from different villages. In this festival, people forget their enmity, bitterness and hatred. They come together to renew their friendship and bonding. According to their age-old experience, the pond adjoining the Paschimambhu Somnath Dev temple is believed to have miraculous power. Devotees suffering from fatal diseases take a dip in the pond and, therefore, the fair witnesses thousands of devotees taking dips in the pond every year. It is also believed that the presiding deity fulfils the desires of devotees who, in gratitude and exhilaration, burn firecrackers when the idol of Paschimambhu Somnath Dev is taken in a procession to the fair ground. The ritual signifies the victory of good over evil. Besides, it is widely believed that one who dies in and around the *melana padia* during the four-day annual event attains salvation.

## SENG KUT SNEM

The North-Eastern Regional Centre of the Anthropological Survey of India, Shillong, participated in the SENG KUT SNEM, which was held on 23rd November as a Revered Day of the Khasi at Jaiaw, which is situated about 10 km. from Shillong. On 23rd November of 1899, the Khasi people, equally blessed as other races by the Almighty, brought out 16 magnanimous young men who stood up and led the community against the oppression of the British. This was the beginning of a movement for preserving and conserving the uniqueness of Khasi culture. That movement would always be remembered as the Seng Khasi Movement. The 23rd November is pinned down in history a



Ka Seng Kut Snem to commemorate the renaissance and awakening of the Khasi Community.



*SENG KUT SNEM- Celebration at Jaiaw, Shillong*

## PARAMPARA

Spurred by the belief that only knowledge can create demand and therefore sustenance, Parampara was conceived as a dissemination and promotion of folk and tribal arts and artists. The Eastern Regional Centre of the Survey, Salt Lake, had organized a cultural programme and exhibition "Parampara- Indigenous and Folk Festival, 2017" on 16th and 17th February, 2017 at the Ashutosh Birth Centenary Hall, Indian Museum. The two-days' long cultural meet was inaugurated by the

renowned theatre personality, Shri Bibhas Chakrabarty, and the stage set fire with spectacular performances by various tribal and folk troops from West Bengal and North-East India.

## Memorial Tradition of Bastar

Scholars of the Sub-Regional Centre of this Survey, Jagdalpur, vividly documented the memorial traditions of Bastar.

## Temple Festival of Nellipira

The Southern Regional Centre, Mysuru, undertook the documentation of the Kattunayakan (PVTG) temple festival at Nellipira, Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu on 27th April and 28th April, 2017.



*Kattunayakan tribal priest performing 'oracle' during a temple festivity in Nellipira, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu*



*Troop from Mizoram performing Chero (Bamboo Dance) in Parampara- Indigenous and Folk Festival- 2017*



## EXHIBITION

During 2017, the Survey organized a series of exhibitions in several parts of the country, which are given below:

- The Central Regional Centre of this Survey participated in the 6th Science Expo organized by Raman Science Centre and Planetarium, Nagpur, from 18th to 22nd January, 2017, and organized an exhibition on "Eutherian Mammals to Man, the Story of Human Evolution".
- A mega exhibition on the "People of India" in connection with the exhibition on "Food and Technology Expo and Concurrent Show Govt. achievements and Schemes Expo" was displayed at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from 14th to 16th July 2017.



*"People of India" in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi*

- The Survey participated in the "Indian National Exhibition-Cum-Fair 2017", which was held at Garia, Kolkata from 17th to 20th August, 2017, and in another exhibition "21st National Exhibition" at New Barrackpore, Kolkata from 24th to 27th August, 2017.

## SEMINAR

- Focusing on the bio-cultural aspects of the Scheduled Tribal communities in India and the significance of various tribal development programmes/schemes of Government agencies, the Western Regional Centre, Udaipur, organised a National Seminar entitled "Government and Tribal Development: Approaches, Role and Reality" from 18th January to 20th January, 2017 in a grand manner. Prof. K. K. Misra, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University of Culture, Orissa, was the Chief Guest of the seminar. Keynote address was delivered by Prof. Rajat Kanti Das, UGC Emeritus Professor, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal. Besides presentation of research papers, the seminar also initiated a panel discussion on "Empowering Scheduled Tribes with special reference to PVTG: Role of Government and Beyond", which was chaired Prof. K. K. Basa, Utkal University. Three days' long seminar was concluded with the valedictory address, delivered by Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava of Delhi University.



*Releasing of Seminar Abstract on "Government and Tribal Development: Approaches, Role and Reality"*

- Two days' long National Seminar on "Biosphere Reserves and Protected Areas in India: Man-Nature Interface" was organized under the auspices of the Headquarter of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, from 9th to 10th March, 2017 at Salt Lake City, Kolkata. The main objective was to bring different stakeholders on a single platform to discuss the man-nature interface in detail. The seminar was inaugurated in a befitting manner. Shri Ajay Kumar Naik, IFS, APCCF & Regional Director, Forest Survey of India, Kolkata was invited as the Chief Guest of the Seminar. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Director, Pollution Control Board, West Bengal, graced the gathering as the Guest of Honour. Keynote address at the seminar was delivered by Prof. Prodyut Bhattacharya, Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi. Scholars, experts across the nation participated in the seminar and presented their thoughtful



*Dr. Arun Kumar Singh, Former Senior Ecologist narrating the Role of Anthropological Survey in Biosphere Reserve Study*

research notes on empirical and conceptual aspects, covering emerging issues on the management and conservation of 18 Biosphere Reserves and the other Protected Areas of the country. Two days' long academic sessions were concluded with valedictory notes addressed by Dr. S.B. Chakraborty, General Secretary, Asiatic Society, Kolkata, and Prof. K.C. Malhotra on 10th March, 2017.

- The North-Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong, of the Anthropological Survey of India organized a National Seminar on "Anthropological Researches in North East India: Colonial and Post Colonial Dimensions" from 26th to 28th July, 2017. Prof. Henry Lamin, Pro-Vice Chancellor,



North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, inaugurated the national seminar as the Chief Guest. Prof. Sarit K. Chaudhuri, Director, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, delivered the keynote address; and Prof. Sheikh Rahim Mandal, Former Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies, North Bengal University, West Bengal, delivered the valedictory address.



*Inaugural session of the Seminar "Anthropological Researches in North East India"*

- The positivism of August Comte got a new dimension from the studies of Durkheim, when the latter started reviewing social facts on the basis of collective consciousness. This country has been experiencing self-determining issues; restructuring historical facts of congressions; increasing cases of suicide en-route from farmers' fields to classrooms and even extends to drawing rooms, towards virtual appeal/intoxication, gradual increasing of overwhelming neo-nationalist approaches towards redefining motivation and integration of society under one canon cannot be isolated from realities. In such a backdrop, the Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake of the Anthropological Survey of India paid homage to Emile Durkheim on his 100<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. On this occasion a day-long academic exercise was carried out under title "Passages through Collective Consciousness: Homage to Emile Durkheim" on 19th November, 2017 to look upon the issues and review the relevance of Durkheimian thoughts empirically, in understanding the praxis of social facts and processes in



*Inauguration of the Seminar "Passages through Collective Consciousness: Homage to Emile Durkheim"*

contemporary situation. The said academic meet gathered participation of noted scholars from various disciplines of social sciences.

- Praxis of understanding 'Unity in Diversity' in India shifted from the realm of metaphysical subjectivity to rational objectivity from the era when India finally got annexed to the Victorian rule. In order to have a contextual understanding of "Unity in Diversity" in India through experience, the Eastern Regional Centre of the Anthropological Survey of India organized a National Seminar on "Discourses on Diversity, Identity and Integrity: Multi-disciplinary Approaches towards Indian Society" from 6th December to 8th December, 2017 at Kolkata. Inaugural session of the seminar was graced by Prof. Yogesh Atal, as the Chief Guest and Prof. Vineetha Menon as the Guest of Honour. Keynote address at the seminar was delivered by Dr. Ramesh Chandra, Former Deputy Director of this Regional Centre. Three days' long academic sessions were concluded with valedictory session with mesmerizing deliberations of Prof. Arun Kumar Chakrabarty, Director General, Raja Rammohun Library Foundation, Kolkata; Dr. S.B. Chakraborty, General Secretary, Asiatic Society, Kolkata; and Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director, Anthropological Survey of India.



*Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava addressing in the Inaugural session of "Discourses on Diversity, Identity and Integrity: Multi-disciplinary Approaches towards Indian Society"*

- The Sub-Regional Centre, Jagdalpur of the Anthropological Survey of India, organized a three day workshop-cum-seminar from 21st December, 2017 to 23rd December, 2017 in the tribal world of the Bastar, Chhattisgarh, on the theme "Tribal World of Verrier Elwin". The main objective of the workshop was to highlight the life and works of Verrier Elwin, one of the great anthropologists in India. As homage to the great contribution of Verrier Elwin in understanding the tribal universe of Bastar, foundation stone was laid to establish a library and museum at the Binjli Village of Narayanpur of Bastar, where Verrier Elwin spent a remarkable period of his time during his close association with Bastar tribes. That even had created a mesmerizing ambience while Verrier Elwin was being recapitulated through the narratives of Shri Ashok Elwin, son of Verrier



Elwin and some villagers set their journeys down the memory lane with that charismatic personality. Homage to Verrier Elwin had reached a height with inauguration of a two-days' long National Seminar on "Tribal World of Verrier Elwin" by Prof. Shailendra Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor,



*Inauguration of the Seminar on "Tribal World of Verrier Elwin"*

Bastar University, in presence of the academic excellence of Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India, Prof. Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya, Former Director of the Survey, and Dr. Jayanta Kumar Sarkar, Former Director-in-Charge of this organization, and tribal experts from various parts of the country, who engaged in discussing the dimensions of pioneer works of Verrier Elwin in depth.

#### IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP

- In connection with the finalization of the reports of the study "Man in the Biosphere Reserve" in five Biosphere

Reserves of India, viz. Panna Biosphere Reserve, Sesachalam Biosphere Reserve, Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve, Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve and Rann of Kutchh Biosphere Reserve, a twelve days' long project workshop was carried out among the scholars at the Head Office, Kolkata, of this Survey from 12th June to 23rd June 2017.

- In view of the launching of a new National Project on "Development and Sustainability", a two-day long rigorous workshop on research methodology was carried out among the research personnel of the organization at the Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake, from 29th August to 30th August 2017. Research personnel and Research Fellows from all the Regional Centre and Headquarter participated in the said programme and got refreshed with dimensions of project including research methods by scholastic deliberations of Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of the Survey.
- The Survey organized a workshop for Assistant Keepers of this Survey on 6th October, 2017 at Head Office, Kolkata, for finalization of action plan for further development of the Survey's existing set-up under auspice of the Zonal Anthropological Museum. Workshop was inaugurated with deliberation of Shri Rajesh Purohit, Director, Indian Museum on "Museum and Anthropology".
- In order to review the findings of the reconnoitre tour of the research personnel of this organization, in connection with the ongoing project "Development and Sustainability", a three day long workshop was carried out at the Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake from 9th to 11th November, 2017. Research personnel and Research Fellow of the entire organization participated and presented research findings of theirs respective study locale under academic supervision of Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava.



*National Workshop on "Development and Sustainability"*



# NEWS

## Manpower Training Programme

- One statistical officer participated in the "Induction Training Programme" at National Sample Survey Organization, FOD Zonal Office, Jaipur from 2nd January, 2017 to 27th January, 2017.
- One officer of this Survey attended the training/ workshop on "RTI On-line Web Portal" organized by the Department of Personnel and Training, Govt. of India, on 20th January 2017 in New Delhi.
- One Officer of this Survey participated in the Workshop on "National Mission on Libraries", organized by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi held on 28th February 2017 in New Delhi.
- Research Scholars of the North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong of this Survey, have participated in a Workshop-cum-Training Programme on "Research Methodology in Social Sciences and Humanities", organized by the Women's College, Shillong held from 5th July to 7th July 2017.
- Research personnel and administrative staff of the organization were deputed in the training on "Public Procurement Process and Initiative/GEM" organized by the Institute of Govt. Accounts and Finance, Ministry of Finance, Kolkata on 6th September and 7th September, 2017.

## Collaborative Programme

During the calendar year 2017, the Anthropological Survey undertook several kinds of collaborative programmes with different organization, which are given below:

- The Eastern Regional Centre organized one day "Sabar Festival" in collaboration with the Sarenga Global Education Centre, Sarenga, on the eve of 154th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on 11th January, 2017.
- Under the scheme, "Assistance to State Government Institutions and Organizations for Documentation of Research Results in the Field of Anthropology", the Survey extended financial assistance to Daricha Foundation of Kolkata for undertaking the documentation work and the related research.
- Counseling and practical classes for the First Year and Final Year students of M.A. in Anthropology (MAAN) programme of IGNOU, New Delhi were conducted at the Southern Regional Centre, Mysuru.
- The Survey provided collaborative assistance to Shaheed Bhagat Singh (Evening College), University of Delhi, for organizing a National Seminar on "Adaptation and Implementation of Paris Agreement: National Initiatives towards Climate Change Mission", which was held on 21st and 22nd April 2017.
- The Survey joined hands with Women's College, Shillong, in organizing the Workshop-cum-Training programme on "Research Methodology in Social Sciences" from 5th to 7th July, 2017.
- In collaboration with Sri Venkateswar University an International Seminar was organized on "Health Psychology" from 25th September to 26th September, 2017 at the University Campus in Tirupati.
- The Survey extended collaborative academic assistance to the Council for Social Development, New Delhi for hosting a Workshop on "Bride Trafficking in the Garb of Marriage in North-West India", at the Indian International Centre, New Delhi on 14th December, 2017.

## Representation of Survey/GoI, in India/Abroad

- The Survey deputed some Research Fellows to participate in the 104th Indian Science Congress, held at Sri Venkateswar, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh from 3rd to 7th January, 2017.
- Some scholars participated in the National Conference on "Borders and Borderlands: Negotiating the Margins under Globalization", held at the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, on 7th February and 8th February, 2017.
- One senior officer attended the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Samiti (RMSS), held on 24th January, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture in the Conference Hall of Central Secretariat Library, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Two officers were deputed to participate in the National Workshop on 'Sustainable Livelihood and Integrated Tribal Development' organized by the IBRAD, Kolkata in collaboration with the Anthropological Survey of India on 20th February and 21st February, 2017.
- One officer of this Survey was deputed to participate and present paper in the National Seminar on 'Forensic Science at the Service of Mankind' held at the University of Lucknow, U.P. on 27th February and 28th February, 2017.
- In accordance with the approval of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi, Dr. M. Sasikumar, Deputy Director (Cultural) and Head of Office of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, attended the 33rd Session of Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), as a representative of the Government of India from 27th February to 3rd March 2017 at Geneva, Switzerland.
- One senior scholar of this Survey delivered a lecture on "Anthropological Surveys and Studies" on 13th February 2017 among the participants of the 'Refresher Course in Research Methodology in Social Sciences and Arts' at the



UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, University of Mysore, Mysuru.

- One officer of this Survey delivered lecture on "Literature in the Tribal Art and its Form" organized by the National School of Drama, New Delhi at Hyderabad on 4th March and 5th March, 2017.
- Two officers participated in the National Seminar on "Anthropology in the Present Era" organized by the Department of Anthropology, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal in collaboration with the Anthropological Survey of India on 23rd March and 24th March, 2017.
- One officer participated and presented paper in the 3rd International Young Scientist Congress 2017 held at the Ganpat University, Mehsana, Gujarat on 8th May and 9th May, 2017.
- Dr. M. Sasikumar, Deputy Director (Cultural) and Head of Office, Kolkata of this Survey attended in a meeting to discuss the issues ahead of the 34th Session on Intergovernmental Committee (last session on Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) held on 11th May 2017 in New Delhi, as a nominated scholar of this Survey.
- Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of the Survey also officiates as the Director-in- Charge of the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata from 1st September, 2017.
- Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of the Survey also nominated as Ex-officio Member of the National Commission for the Sub-categorisation of the other Backward Classes, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of this Survey, attended the third meeting of the committee set up to review the National Mineral Policy, 2008 (NMP 2008) held on 26th September, 2017 in New Delhi.
- As the Member of National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Communities, Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of the Survey submitted report to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in December, 2017.
- The Survey deputed one research personnel for academic participation in the National Seminar on "Man, Environment and Culture" held on 14th September, 2017 at the North Bengal University, Darjeeling.
- One scholar of this Survey delivered a talk at the Council for Cultural Resource and Training under Ministry of Culture on 13th October, 2017.
- The Survey deputed one research personnel as a resource person to present a paper on "Handigodu Syndrome" in the Lecture Series organized by the Pune University from 11th October to 13th October, 2017.

- Two scholars of this Survey attended the Inter-Ministerial Meeting held on 5th October, 2017 at South Block, New Delhi regarding U.S. Department of Defence Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA)'s proposed visit to Arunachal Pradesh during November-December, 2017.
- Two scientific officers of this Survey attended the Review Meeting pertaining to work/issues of respective departments under the Ministry of Culture, held on 2nd November, 2017 at New Delhi.
- One scientific officer delivered an invited talk on the challenges of tribal crafts in contemporary India at National School of Drama programme at Kendujhargarh, Orissa.
- Two scholars attended a National Workshop on "Bride Trafficking in the Garb of Marriage in North-West India", organized by the Council for Social Development, New Delhi at the Indian International Centre, New Delhi on 14th December, 2017.

### Executive Committee Meeting

In order to discuss and evaluate physical as well as financial targets, 24th and 25th meeting of the Executive Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. Jayanta Sengupta, Director-in-Charge of this Survey in Kolkata on 6th and 7th February 2017 and at Port Blair on 24th April and 25th April, 2017 respectively. 24th and 25th Executive Committee emphasized on the completion and finalization of reports of the 12th Plan National Projects.

Under Chairmanship of Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava (newly appointed Director), 26th and 27th Executive Committee Meetings was held on 7th August and 8th August, 2017 at New Delhi and from 9th November to 11th November, 2017 at Salt Lake, Kolkata respectively. 26th Executive Committee Meeting emphasized on the formulation of a new research project "Development and Sustainability".

In addition to follow-up actions and monitoring of current affairs of the organization, the 27th Executive committee identified a few more area of studies viz. Identified academic areas are: (1) Anthropological Survey of Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic and Denotified Communities, (2) Community Health, Disease and Genetic Structure of Indian Population and (3) Palaeo-Anthropological Research in India, for anthropological exercises in next financial budget.

### Rajbhasha

- Pursuant to the Annual Programme of Official Language Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and following instructions of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee, Government of India, the Western Regional Centre, Udaipur, organized a Hindi Workshop for the scientific, technical and administrative personnel of that Regional Centre at Udaipur from 6th



March to 7th March 2017. Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava and Prof. P. C. Joshi of Delhi University and Shri Vijay Singh Chauhan were resource persons of that workshop.

- The Central Regional Centre, Nagpur, received the Consolation prize for Rashtrabhasha Karyanvayan (Official works in Hindi) for the year 2015-16 in competing with 40 Central Government organizations of Nagpur city, which was co-ordinated by Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti, Nagpur on 27th February, 2017 at Nagpur.



*Central Regional Centre on receiving Prize from NARAKAS, Nagpur*

- A team of research personnel of this Survey were deputed in the Hindi Workshop organized by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal, which was held from 8th June to 9th June 2017.
- In regard to implementation to Rajbhasha in office function, Timahi Hindi Karyashala (Quarterly Hindi Workshop) and Timahi Hindi Baithak (Quarterly Hindi Meeting) were organized at all Regional Centers/Sub-Regional Centre. Hindi Saptah / Pakhowada was also organized in the Survey in a befitting manner. In connection with Hindi Pakhowada, a Hindi workshop was organized in the Head Office, Kolkata. Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of the institute delivered lecture on "Teaching of Anthropology through Hindi Medium" on that occasion.



*Hindi Karyashala at Head Office, Kolkata*

Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata graced as the distinguished guest of the workshop.

### Swachha Bharat Programme

The Survey organized 'Swachhta Pakhwada' in connection with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Pakhwada' from 16th September to 30th September, 2017 at its Head Office, Kolkata, and all its Regional/Sub Regional Centres. As a part of the programme Gandhi Jayanti was also observed under the activities of "Swachhta Pakhwada". On this occasion a lecture on "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" was delivered by Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director, followed by cleanliness drives at the Eastern Regional Centre of this Survey.



*Swachhata drive during Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*

### Celebration of Foundation Day

On 1st December of 2017, the Anthropological Survey of India celebrated its 73th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm in all Regional Centres. The Head Office of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, celebrated the occasion with vigour. The Foundation Day Lecture was followed by various cultural performances in the evening. Welcome address was delivered



*Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya-Prof. D.K.Bhattacharya in lighting of Lamp on the 73rd Foundation Day, Kolkata*





*Unity in Diversity- presenting a cultural collage on 73rd Foundation Day*

by Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director of the organization. Prof. D.K. Bhattacharya graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered lecture on "Anthropology in Changing India".

## Other

- 68th Republic Day of the Nation was celebrated in all Regional Centres in a befitting manner on 26th January, 2017 in a befitting manner. In Kolkata, the Recreation Club of the Anthropological Survey of India organized Annual Sports Meet at its Salt Lake Campus. All the staff members of Eastern Regional Centre and Head Quarter, Kolkata, enthusiastically participated in events along with their family members.



*Participants in Annual Sports Meet- 2017*

- On the day of 18th May, 2017, all the Regional Centre observed the International Museum Day - 2017 in a befitting manner at its Zonal Anthropological Museums. The Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake organized Guest Lectures on the theme "Museum and Contested Histories: Saying in Unspeakable in Museum".
- After a long interval the Anthropological Survey of India finally got a permanent Director at her highest chair. Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava of the Department of Anthropology, Delhi University joined the position of Director on 1st August, 2017.
- The International Yoga Day was celebrated by all Regional Centres and Head Office on 21st June, 2017, pertaining

practicing various Yogas/Ashanas in regard to maintain stress free life in day-to-day life.



*Employees on International Yoga Day- 2017*

- On the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9th August 2017, the Anthropological Survey of India undertook various activities with the spirit of the theme of the year, "10th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" at all Regional Centre.
- 70th Independence Day was celebrated in a befitting manner in all Regional Centre.
- An Exhibition Gallery on the theme "Human Evolution, Bio-Cultural Diversity and People of India" was inaugurated on 26th January, 2017 at the Eastern Regional Centre, Salt Lake. Prof. Ranjana Ray, Professor Emeritus, Calcutta University; Prof. Subho Roy, Professor and Head, In-charge Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta; Dr. Prasenjit Devburman, Director, Cultural Research Institute, Govt. of West Bengal and Dr. Krishnendu Bhattacharya were noted invited guests of the occasion.



*Inauguration exhibition gallery on "Human Evolution, Bio-Cultural Diversity and People of India"*



## Superannuation

On attaining the age of superannuation, Shri Ajit Kumar Bhattacharya, Senior Statistical Officer; Dr. Daggolu Xaviour, Research Associate (Physical), Shri Karunamay Mistry, Multi Tasking Staff; Shri Mari, Multi Tasking Staff; Dr. Kakali Chakrabarty, Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural); Dr. Shampa Gangopadhyay, Assistant Anthropologist (Physical); Shri Subrata Mandal, Compositor; Shri Rabiranjana Biswas, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural); Dr. Sumit Mukhopadhyay, Research Associate (Ecology); Smt. Hansa Devi, Multi Tasking Staff; Shri Tapan Kumar Biswas, Upper Division Clerk; Shri Poonam Ram Baghel, Multi Tasking Staff; Shri R.Th. Varte, Anthropologist (Physical); Shri Davender Singh Hooda; Research Associate (Ecology); Shri Dipak Sarkar, Assistant; Shri Kantharaj, Multi Tasking Staff; Smt. Vidya Giridhar Mankar, Lower Division Clerk; Shri Dattatray Narayanrao Supner, Statistical Assistant; Smt. Sabina Pakma, Upper Division Clerk have retired from the Survey during 2017.

## New Recruitment/Joining

Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director; Dr. Abhishikta Ghosh Roy, Anthropologist (Physical); Dr. P.R. Sahoo, Anthropologist (Cultural); Smt. Vandana Kumari, Assistant Anthropologist (Cultural); Priyanka Airi, Assistant Anthropologist (Physical); Shri Reddy N. Naidu, Assistant Anthropologist (Physical); Shri Siddhartha Shit, Assistant Keeper; Smt. Banita Behera, Assistant Keeper; Shri Sarabjeet Singh, Assistant Keeper; Shri Subrata Majumdar, Senior Statistical Officer; Smt. Deepannita Acharya, Junior Statistical Officer have joined the Survey during the reported year.

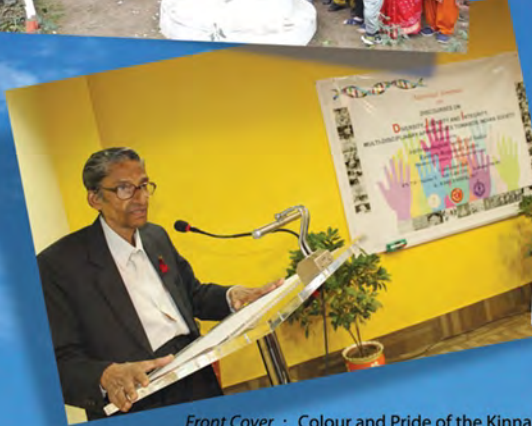
## Promotion

During 2017, Dr. K.M. Sinha Roy, Superintending Anthropologist (Cultural); Dr. Umesh Kumar, Senior Ecologist; Dr. C. Raghu, Anthropologist (Cultural) were awarded with promotion to the next higher rank through the Departmental Promotion Committee.



*Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava and employees in Celebration of 70th Independence Day*





*Front Cover* : Colour and Pride of the Kinnaur valley, Himachal Pradesh

*Back Cover* : 1. Republic Day Celebration at North-Western Regional Centre, Dehradun.

2. Enlightened by Prof. K. C. Malhotra on Biosphere Reserve in India Man-Nature Interface
3. Prof. Jayanta Sengupta, Curator, The Victoria Memorial Hall on the Chair of a session
4. Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society in Valedictory session



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